of the Act are duly carried into effect. This commission consists of 13 members, "of whom six are justices of the "peace for the county, four are gentlemen possessing pro- "perty in or near the forest, who have been elected by the "freeholders of Hants to be verderers of the forest, and "the remaining three are the two Commissioners of Woods "and the Deputy Surveyor of the Forest."

Probably similar mixed commissions will eventually be constituted in India for similar purposes. Indeed they differ but slightly from those proposed in the bill recently introduced for the better management of our Indian forests.

I must now conclude this brief and imperfect description of the New Forest, and of the position of the Crown with respect to it, &c., &c., and again recommend to our officers a careful perusal of the reports and returns already mentioned, which clearly show the principles of management which have been adopted from time to time, and that our *confrères* in charge of the State forests in this country have enjoyed no immunity from the troubles, and, what one is apt to classify as vexatious opposition, which we meet with in India.

Parkhurst Woods.

These woods, situated in the Isle of Wight, extend over about 1,200 acres, and are under the charge of Mr. Gulliver, as foreman or head forester, acting under the orders of Mr. Cumberbatch, the deputy surveyor, who has also charge of the Bere, Woolmer, and Alice Holt Forests.

The Parkhurst plantations are freehold of the Crown, and were commenced about the year 1814, under the authority of an Act of 1812, which applied also to other woods, and set forth that "it had become necessary to adopt measures "for securing a more adequate supply of timber in the "kingdom," and directed that the "inclosure to be made by "the Crown under its authority should be made and reputed "a nursery or nurseries for wood and timber only."

The soil is chiefly a cold stiff clay, with gravel on the hills, and is very badly suited for the growth of oak, with which it appears to have been originally planted for the most part. Some of the oak first planted on the upper and drier portions of the land is doing fairly, but elsewhere the growth is stunted, and the trees stag-headed and gnarled. The beech, chestnut, and stone pine exhibit also a fair growth, but the larch planted about 14 years ago is flourishing, and, in moderately good soil, the trees average

20 feet in height. There is also some quantity of younger larch, mixed with Scotch fir and a little spruce, planted about eight years ago, which is doing pretty well. The soil is evidently best adapted for the growth of larch.

A few deodars have been planted in the rides for ornamental purposes. They are growing very slowly in the lower and damper portions of the wood, but a little better on the uplands.

A good deal of damage is, Mr. Gulliver informed me, done by rabbits to the young trees, and last year a disastrous fire occurred, which swept through and destroyed some thirty acres of plantation before it could be stopped, although the soldiers from the neighbouring barracks were turned out to aid in extinguishing it. The damage done is so apparent, that I think it would convince any of those who doubt the necessity of putting a stop to forest fires in India, and maintain that they do no harm. Luckily, the trees in this portion of the wood were of no great value, so that the loss will be comparatively trifling.

The revenue of the forest for 1870–71 was 368*l.*, and expenditure 288*l.*

Most of the revenue is derived from the sale of oak bark, which is small but of good quality. Last year 23½ tons were sold, which is nearly 10 tons less than the usual yield.

Scotch fir thinnings realize from 6*d.* to 8*d.* per tree on the spot, and larch a little more. On the whole this wood does not repay a visit, and I merely inspected it as I was in the vicinity seeing Portsmouth Dockyard.

The Dean Forest.

Extent and Divisions.—This forest is situated in the county of Gloucester, to the north and west of the River Severn. The total acreage of the forest within the perambulation is 22,500 acres, but of this extent there are 3,300 acres in which the Crown has only mineral rights, leaving 19,200 acres in which the Crown has the right to the soil.

The forest is under the charge of Sir James Campbell, as deputy surveyor, with one assistant. Sir James has also charge of the High Meadow Woods, which adjoin.

His residence at Whitemead Park, near Coleford, is very conveniently situated as regards the forest, which extends on either side. There were until lately two assistants to